

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 03/03077

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 C23C8/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99 04055 A (MORTON PETER HARLOW ; BELL THOMAS (GB); BLOYCE ANDREW (GB); DONG HA) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) cited in the application page 3 -page 4; figure 2	7
A	TAKAMURA A: "surface hardening of titanium by oxygen" TRANSACTIONS OF THE JAPAN INSTITUTE OF METALS, JAPAN INSTITUTE OF METALS, SENDAI, JP, vol. 3, 1962, pages 10-14, XP002080647 ISSN: 0021-4434 *conclusion* figures 1-3	1-6
A	----- -----	1-7

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/10/2003

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 10, 30 November 1995 (1995-11-30) & JP 07 180025 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CORP), 18 July 1995 (1995-07-18) abstract ---	1-7
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 167 (C-0827), 26 April 1991 (1991-04-26) & JP 03 036257 A (MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORP), 15 February 1991 (1991-02-15) abstract ---	1-7
A	EP 0 388 710 A (MITSUBISHI MOTORS CORP) 26 September 1990 (1990-09-26) *column 4, lines 60 to 69; column 6, lines 1 to 5*	1-7
A	US 5 316 594 A (KEMP WILLARD E) 31 May 1994 (1994-05-31) *page 4, line 14, Figures 5 and 6* ----	1-7

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